

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 07692 141221Z
ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSCE-00 HA-02 PM-03 SP-02
L-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /034 W
-----100466 141301Z /53

P R 141140Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1530
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMCONSUL UDORN

CONFIDENTIAL BANGKOK 7692

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF
SUBJECT: MEO REFUGEES

1. DURING CALL MARCH 14 ON GENERAL THUANTHONG SUVANADAT, SENIOR AIDE TO PRIME MINISTER, EMBOFF EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER REPORTS OF MEO TRIBESMEN FLEEING INTO THAILAND AS A RESULT OF LPDR/SRV MILITARY ACTION AGAINST THE MEO. EMBOFF TOLD GENERAL THUANGTHONG THAT WE THOUGHT THERE SHOULD BE PARTICULARLY SYMPATHY FOR PLIGHT OF MEO WHO WERE NOT APPARENTLY UNDER SUSTAINED ATTACK BY COMBINED LAO/ VIETNAMESE FORCES EQUIPPED WITH MODERN WEAPONRY. EMBOFF SAID IT WOULD BE TRAGIC IF MEO ATTEMPTING TO FLEE WERE REFUSED ENTRY AND AS A RESULT WERE TRAPPED ON LAO SIDE OF MEKONG.

2. GENERAL THUANTHONG SAID HE WAS NOT FULLY INFORMED ON THE MOST RECENT DEVELOPMENTS BUT HAD ALREADY REQUESTED A FULL UPDATING BY HIS STAFF. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD OUR CONCERN AND SHARED IT. HE SAID THAT ANY EXCLUSIONARY ACTIONS COULD ONLY BE RESULT OF OVERZEALOUS LOCAL OFFICIALS ACTING ON THEIR OWN
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 07692 141221Z

INITIATIVE TO RESTRICT THE FLOW OF THE MEO, NOT AS A RESULT OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT POLICY DIRECTIONS. THUANTHONG PROMISED HE WOULD LOOK INTO THE MATTER AND EMBOFF INDICATED HE WOULD CHECK BACK WITH THE GENERAL.

3. PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT LOCAL THAI ARMY COMMANDER HAS

OBTAINED AGREEMENT FROM LPDR COMMANDER ON ISLAND JUST OFF THAI
SIDE OF MEKONG TO REFRAIN FROM SHOOTING INTO THAILAND AFTER
FLEEING MEO. LPDR COMMANDER REPORTEDLY INDICATED HE WOULD
NEVERTHELESS CONTINUE TO ATTEMPT TO STOP THE FLEEING
MEO.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, POLITICAL SITUATION
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Draft Date: 14 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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